



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support Bulletin –March/April 2021

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Facebook Page: VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Michigan Veterans and Family Support

National Theme: Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans

Department Theme: Honor, Serve and Remember our Veterans with Everlasting Patriotism

Well, here we are – the last bulletin of the year. I would like to start by thanking you, the District and Auxiliary Chairmen, for all your hard work this year. There have been some really fantastic, “thinking outside the box” reports for promoting our programs thus far and I look forward to reading more as we finish up this year. Speaking of which, we have until April 20th to report on your achievements – so Chairman, now is the time to check your Guide Sheet!!

President Carrie sent out a packet to each auxiliary president earlier this month, in which she outlined ways to achieve our goals while living within the current COVID-19 guidelines. Under V&FS we have:

- Promote the National Veterans Service and the Veterans and Military Support Programs (MAP, Unmet Needs, and the VFW “Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”) in local newspapers and on social media.
- Send or deliver needed items to homeless veteran events/facilities.
- Send cards or packages to aid veterans/military personnel or their families.
- Promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention in local papers or on social media.
- Recognize veteran and military caregivers.
- Promote Stars, Stripes and Support to combat food insecurity among military families in local papers or on social media and
- Promote local Veterans and Family Support programs.

Think about those things you do routinely for our veterans that can be reported under Direct Aid. Whether it be a “Thinking of You” card, a homecooked meal or grocery shopping/running errands with or for veterans and their families, these are all examples of things we normally do for our veterans that is reportable. Don’t forget to report attending your District Meeting, a School of Instruction and if you contributed to the sale of Department Program Pins.

Let us not forget that May is the Month of the Military Caregiver. There are numerous ways that you auxiliary can provide support to veterans and military caregivers and their sacrifices. Examples are: Listen to them; Give a gift card for personal care; Send them a “Thinking of you” card or flowers and offer some respite time to the caregiver. Think about other creative ways to show that you are thinking of appreciate them.

I want to remind you of the two National Awards under this Chairmanship:

1. Most outstanding activity to increase awareness of food insecurity among military service personnel and their families. And...
2. Most outstanding event or activity that supports veterans and military caregivers.

The Criteria and entry form (required) is available on our Department website on the V&FS page under Programs. The Entry Form must be to me by March 31.

Let's not forget also about our Department Competition in Support of our National President's Special Project. The District that has the most auxiliaries participate in the NATIONAL AWARDS #1 will receive \$25. The Auxiliary that the Department chooses as having the most outstanding activity will receive \$75. The tiebreaker, if needed, will be if the auxiliary also donated to "Unmet Need-Hunger" (please note that the amount of money donated will not have a factor). The V&FS Chairman is keeping track of that through the reporting system, so if your auxiliary makes a donation report it under **V&FS Other**. ***Our Department's competition has no influence on winners selected at National Level and all entries received by Department will be forwarded to National.***

In closing, I would like to thank you all for doing a fantastic job. Please if you need to contact me regarding anything call or text me on my cell phone, which is listed below.

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